



The Asian American Coalition of Chicago
presents
The 29th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration
"IT'S TIME..."

Saturday, February 25, 2012 at Hyatt Regency O'Hare
9300 West Bryn Mawr Avenue
Rosemont, Illinois

Hosted by The Thai American Community

2012 CHAIR
Vallapa Kongsri

2012 CO-CHAIR
Arun Sampanthavivat

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
His Excellency Professor Kantathi Suphamongkhon
The 39th Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand

CELEBRITY PRESENTERS
Steve Dolinsky and Nancy Loo

2012 PAN ASIAN AMERICAN PING TOM MEMORIAL AWARDEE
Raymond B. Lee

2012 GRAND ASIAN AMERICAN SANDRA OTAKA MEMORIAL AWARDEE
The Hon. Jesse White



To every thing there is a season ...



Learning: "There is an appropriate time for everything."

Origin: From the Bible, Ecclesiastes 3 (King James Version)



Program Schedule

(As of presstime 2/14/12)

29th Annual Asian American Coalition of Chicago Lunar New Year Celebration

“IT’S TIME...”

Directed by: Marc Rita

All times approximate and subject to change.

5:00 p.m. Silent Auction

Cocktail Reception

Performance on Ranad, a Thai Xylophone

6:10 p.m. Opening Ceremonies

Traditional Lion Dance

Performed by: Chicago Dragons Athletic Association

6:30 p.m. Thai Classical Dance

Performed by: Thai Classical Dance School of Thai Buddhist Temple

Posting of Colors

U.S. National Anthem

Sung by: Ms. Monchaya Jetabut

Thai National Anthem

Sung By: Mr. Hon Bannapradist

Opening Remarks by Vallapa Kongsri, Event Chair

Introduction of Keynote Speaker by

The Hon. Narong Sasitorn, Consul General

The Royal Thai Consulate-General in Chicago

Keynote Speech

His Excellency Professor Kantathi Suphamongkhon

The 39th Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Kingdom of Thailand

Young Leadership Speakers

Mr. Kevin Ma

Dr. Karen Eng



7:10 p.m.

Dinner Service

Live Jazz Performance by: Jeff Chan Jazz Band

Remarks by Global Sponsor: The Hartford

Karen Wood, Assistant Vice President, Sales and Distribution

Ougi Zukushi, "Collection of Fans"

Performed by: Fujima Ryu of Chicago

Presentation of Grand Asian American Sandra Otaka Memorial

Award to The Hon. Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State

"Butterfly Lovers" Cantonese Opera

Performed by: Mr. Don Lam and Ms. Cara Liu

Presentation of Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial Award

to Mr. Raymond B. Lee

Assisted by Darryl Tom, On Behalf of the Tom Family

"Cendrawasih Dance"

Performance Sponsored by: The Consulate General of the

Republic of Indonesia in Chicago

Presentation of Youth who Excel Awards

Traditional Korean Dance

Performed by: The Choomsarang Dance Group

Presentation of Community Service Awards

Bhangra Dance

Performed by: The Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago

Announcement of Major Silent Auction Winners

Vietnamese Cultural Performance, including

Traditional Vietnamese Hat Dance

Closing Remarks by Chef Arun Sampanthavivat, Event Co-Chair

9:30 p.m.

Passing of the Gavel to the 2013 Host, The Vietnamese American Community

Until Midnight

Dancing immediately following in Lower Level Room to be announced

MAJOR SPONSORS

(Rd # 6f As of presstime, 2/16/12 –4:30 p.m.)

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following, without whose help this event could not be possible:

PRESENTING SPONSOR (\$30,000)

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TABLE SPONSORS *(Two and Up)*

The Chinese American Community – Chinese American Civic Council of Chicago; Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce; Chinese American Service League, Inc.; Coalition for A Better Chinese American Community; Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc. – Greater Chicago Chapter; Golden Country Oriental Food L.L.C.

The Filipino American Community – Austriaco & Associates, Ltd.

The Indian American Community – Alliance of Midwest India Associations;

Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago

Indonesian American Community of Illinois

The Japanese American Community and Japanese American Citizens League, Chicago Chapter

Asian American Advisory Board to U.S. Senator Mark Kirk and Steve H. Kim, Chair

Korean American Association of Chicago; Korean American Bar Association of Chicago; Korean American

Women's Association of Chicago; Korean American Community Services and ioTrio

Malaysian Club of Chicago

The Pakistani American Community

The Thai American Community, Thai American Association of Illinois and Thai Town Center, Inc.

The Vietnamese American Community - Nghia Sinh International, Inc.

SILENT AUCTION DONORS

(Rd # 5 As of presstime, 2/20/12 –9 PM.)

The Asian American Coalition of Chicago gratefully acknowledge the support of the following:

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Banyan Tree Samui

Banyan Tree Phuket

Chiva-Som, Hua-Hin

Airline Tickets for 2 from Bangkok to Chiangmai from Ms. Nontalee Lacharoj, Empress Travel in Thailand

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Jim Thompson America Inc

Le Meridien Bangkok

Le Meridien Changmai Hotel

Le Cordon Bleu Dusit Culinary School

Plaza Athénée Bangkok, A Royal Méridien Hotel

W Retreat Koh Samui

Special thanks to our Co-coordinator in Thailand: Nitaya Jutamart

The Allerton Hotel Chicago

Arun's Restaurant

Arun Sampanthavivat Private Collection

The Consul General of Thailand, The Hon. Narong Sasitorn

Bradford Renaissance Portraits Package

Carnivale

Chicago Sinfonietta and ENERI Communications at LURE Izakaya Pub

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Julia Hadi Gallery

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Prasit Kobsombat

Edward W. Lai – Selected Work from the Grace Lai Collection

RL Restaurant

Urbanbelly

Celebrity Presenters



Steve Dolinsky

Since 1995, Steve Dolinsky has won 12 James Beard Awards for his TV and radio work.

Currently, he is the Food Reporter for ABC 7 Chicago. Every Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m., he introduces his two-minute "Hungry Hound" segments live, covering a range of topics. He covers ingredients, trends, food shops and new restaurants. He also appears on the station's 10 p.m. news every Friday night – the #1-rated newscast in Chicago.

Steve also blogs about food, wine and spirits on his website, stevedolinsky.com. He is the former Food Contributor for WBEZ-FM's "848" program, as well as Public Radio International's "The World." He has also written food stories and profiles for "Michigan Avenue Magazine", "The Chicago Reader" and "The Huffington Post".

In 2004, Dolinsky started Culinary Communications, a food industry-focused media training company that works with chefs and other food and beverage professionals outside of Chicago, teaching them how to prepare for and handle all kinds of media exposure.

Prior to joining ABC in 2003, Dolinsky launched the "Good Eating" show for CLTV and the Tribune Company in 1995, serving as Executive Producer and Host for all of its eight years, overseeing 52 shows each year. The weekly, half-hour show aired on the 24-hour cable news channel owned by The Tribune Company.

Dolinsky has traveled to India and Thailand. He has eaten around Asia via the restaurants of Chicago, exploring and telling viewers about every nuance from Northern China to the Korean peninsula and down to southern Vietnam.

This is Steve Dolinsky's debut appearance co-hosting the Asian American Coalition of Chicago's Lunar New Year Celebration.



Nancy Loo

Nancy Loo is an Emmy Award-winning journalist who joined WGN-TV as a Reporter and Fill-in Anchor in June 2010. Loo brings an extensive background of international reporting to WGN-TV, having worked as a reporter and anchor in Hong Kong, Tokyo, New York City, and Chicago. Loo's career took her on news assignments to England, China, Japan, Taiwan, North and South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines. In addition to her TV credits, Nancy has her own blog on the Tribune's "Chicago Now" site. She is also adept at social media, actively engaging viewers through Twitter and Facebook.

Before joining the WGN news team, Nancy Loo was an anchor/reporter at Fox Chicago News, where she earned a 2004 Emmy nomination for her series, "Chicago's Coolest Cribbs" which featured unique homes in the Windy City.

Before moving to Chicago in 2001, Loo was an anchor/reporter for WABC-TV in New York, where she earned three Emmy Award nominations. Her team won the Emmy for Best Morning Newscast for a show in which she actually kept delivering the news through labor contractions.

In 1993, Loo was among the team of journalists who launched New York 1 News. During her two years with the 24-hour cable news channel, she was named National Anchor of the Year by the New York Chapter of Women in Cable. From 1986 to 1989, she worked as an anchor and reporter at English-language TV channels in Hong Kong and Japan. She also served as a correspondent in the Far East for ABC Radio.

Born in Hong Kong and raised in Northern California, Loo earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism at the University of Oregon. She speaks fluent Cantonese and has studied German, Japanese, and American Sign Language.

Loo recently stepped down as Co-President of the Asian American Journalists Association Chicago Chapter but she remains active in AAJA, as well as the Chinese American Service League, the Organization of Chinese Americans and the Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce.

This is Nancy Loo's tenth time co-hosting the Asian American Coalition of Chicago's Lunar New Year Celebration.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

HIS EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR KANTATHI SUPHAMONGKHON

THE 39TH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND



His Excellency Professor Kantathi Suphamongkhon* is the 39th Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand (2005-2006).

Professor Kantathi Suphamongkhon is presently a Visiting Professor of Law and Diplomacy at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) as well as Senior Fellow at the Burkle Center for International Relations at UCLA. He previously served as the University of California Regents' Professor at UCLA (from 2007–2009). He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Southern California (USC); a Master of Arts degree in International Studies from the American University in Washington, D.C.; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from UCLA.

He has been Chairman of the Human Security Network. He has also served as Thai Trade Representative (Cabinet rank) and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Thailand on Foreign Affairs. In addition, he was elected as a Member of the Thai Parliament for two terms. He has served as Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in Thailand. Before politics, he served as a career diplomat in Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 10 years, four of which were spent as a representative of Thailand to the United Nations in New York.

Professor Kantathi Suphamongkhon has also worked in the private sector as Director of the Post Publishing Public Company, which publishes the "Bangkok Post" and the "Post Today" newspapers. He is now Chairman of Kanta Enterprise International Company Limited (KEI). He is also a Director at Kanta Sahakij Company Limited and Athakravi Company Limited.

Professor Kantathi Suphamongkhon has taught various subjects including, International Law, International Organizations, Political Science, Theories and Practices in International Relations, International Trade and Foreign Policy, Negotiations and Foreign Policy, International Politics and Globalization, Foreign Policy of Thailand, Southeast Asian Studies, Foreign Policy Decision-Making as well as Psychology and Foreign Policy.

2012 PAN ASIAN AMERICAN PING TOM MEMORIAL AWARDEE

Raymond B. Lee

Owner/President, Golden Country Oriental Food Co.

Owner/President, Golden Ocean Seafood, Inc.



The Asian American Coalition of Chicago is pleased to announce that **Raymond B. Lee**, Owner and President of Golden Country Oriental Food Co. (since 1979) and Golden Ocean Seafood, Inc. (since 1984) has been named the **2012 Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial Awardee**. Raymond Lee built his business from a small warehouse on Wells Street in Chicago to what is now one of the largest Asian, African, Caribbean and Oriental wholesale food importers and distributors in the United States.

Lee was instrumental in the formation of the Asian American Alliance and served as the President of its Board for three years (1996-1999) and as Director Asian American Alliance (Asian American Small Business Center) (from 1996-2002). The Alliance was an organization comprised of various Asian Chambers of Commerce (Chinese, Korean, Filipino and Vietnamese). He also served as a Chicago Park District Commissioner (1988-1989) and Chicago Board of Education member (1989-1990), becoming the first Asian American appointed to each such position, at a time when there was little or no representation of Asian Pacific Americans on such important boards in Chicago.

Among numerous community and civic service affiliations, Lee is past Chairman, President, and current Secretary of the Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce (service in various roles, 1983-present); Managing Director, Chinatown Parking Corporation (service since 1984); Chairman of the Board, Chinese American Development Corp. (since 1985); a member of the Ping Tom Memorial Park Advisory Council (since 1994); and a member of the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community (2001-present).

He previously served as a Member, Advisory Board Member and Finance Committee Chairman for the Chinese American Service League (various roles, 1988-2009); Member, City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Asian Affairs (2001-2002); and as a Member, Asian American Advisory Council to the Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White (2001-2002).

From the AACC Nomination Package (Compiled by Leonard M. Louie):

“Raymond Lee built his business from a small warehouse on Wells Street to what is now one of the largest Asian, African, Caribbean and Oriental wholesale food importers and distributors in the United States. During this time, he has always been a strong supporter of Asian organizations, both financially and most important, volunteering his time and personal services. In other words, he was a “doer”! “If you need me, I will be there and I will help!” “

"At a time when Asian representation on Government positions were strictly in non-decision making Boards and commissions, Raymond Lee was appointed a Commissioner of the Chicago Park District by then Chicago Mayor Eugene Sawyer, and later he was moved by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley to the Chicago School Board. These appointments opened the door for more Asians to be appointed to key positions. While serving his terms with the Park District and School Board, Raymond initiated the work which resulted in Ping Tom Memorial Park and a new Haines Elementary School. He accomplished this by inviting his fellow Commissioners to accompany him to view the desolated abandoned rail property near Chinatown Square. He did likewise by bringing the Board Members to visit the 100-year-old former Haines property".



"His greatest achievement was the fulfillment of a request made by legendary Ping Tom just prior to Ping's passing. Ping indicated that the Chinatown Square Project was having severe financial problems but had to be completed since the Community desperately needed more residential and commercial space. Raymond took over the leadership of the Corporation upon Ping's untimely death and used all his business acumen and committed personal finances, to eventually complete the Chinatown Square Project."

"Raymond felt strongly that Asian Businesses needed help in obtaining government assistance and preparing procurement proposals. His initiative resulted in the formation of a Coalition of Asian Chambers of Commerce (Asian American Alliance and the Asian American Small Business Center). He helped finance their early operations and served as their first President."

"When the Chinatown Museum Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, committed to preserving the culture of the Chinatown and Chinese American Community in Chicago was in its early stages and still searching for a home, Raymond Lee again stepped forward. He felt that the history and culture of the Community needed to be preserved for future generations and that the museum needed a home if they were going to become a reality.



Raymond Lee, second to left, Ping Tom to his left, former Chicago Mayor Eugene Sawyer to Ping's left

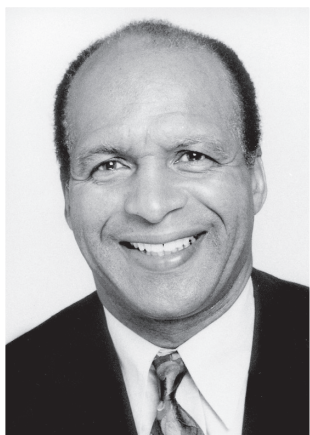
A property which his family had originally owned was on the market where Raymond spent his early years working for 35 cents an hour. He had an emotional attachment to the property and felt this to be the perfect scenario to retain the building and help the museum. He purchased the property* for \$660,000 and donated it to the Museum." (In addition, after the fire in 2008 destroyed the upper two floors of the museum, Ray donated an additional \$500,000 to renovate and rebuild the damage caused by the fire.)

"In a capsule, this is Raymond Lee."

*The museum building, formerly the Quong Yick Co., and now known as the Chinese American Museum of Chicago, the Raymond B. and Jean T. Lee Center, is located at 238 West 23rd Street in

Chicago's Chinatown. The Museum opened to the public in May 2005. After a devastating fire in September of 2008, the Museum was closed for renovation and reopened in 2010.

Raymond B. Lee Nominated by: Leonard M. Louie, Chair - 2007 AACC Lunar New Year Celebration and Member of AACC Board of Directors; President, Ping Tom Memorial Park Advisory Council; Executive Director, Chinese American Development Corporation; Treasurer and Past President, Chinese American Civic Council; Director, Chinese American Service League; Advisory Board, Chinatown American Museum of Chicago and Member, Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community, With Letters of Support from Tony Shu, President, Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Woodrow M. Lee, 2011 President, Chinese American Civic Council of Chicago and Bernarda Wong, President, Chinese American Service League.



2012 GRAND ASIAN AMERICAN SANDRA OTAKA MEMORIAL AWARDEE

The Honorable Jesse White

Illinois Secretary of State

Jesse White is Illinois' 37th Secretary of State. He was first elected to the office in 1998 and won landslide victories in 2002, in which he won all 102 counties, and again in 2006. On November 2, 2010, White was re-elected to a fourth term, winning another landslide victory in which he earned over 2.5 million votes statewide. The Illinois Secretary of State's office is the largest and most diverse office of its kind in the nation, providing more direct services to the people of Illinois than any other public agency.

Prior to his election as Secretary of State, White served as Cook County Recorder of Deeds — a job to which he was first elected in 1992 and re-elected in 1996. Before that, he served 16 years in the Illinois General Assembly, representing the most culturally, economically and ethnically diverse district in Illinois.

In 1959, White founded the internationally known Jesse White Tumbling Team to serve as a positive alternative for children residing in and around the Chicago area. Since its inception, more than 13,000 young men and women have performed with the team. White has spent over 52 years working as a volunteer with the team to help at-risk youth kids stay away from gangs, drugs, alcohol and smoking, and set them on the path to success. The program has received international praise. In 2012, the team will make more than 1,500 performances throughout the nation.

White served our country as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division and as a member of the Illinois National Guard and Reserve. He played professional baseball with the Chicago Cubs organization, followed by a 33-year career with the Chicago public school system as a teacher and administrator.

Since 1999, Secretary White's office has appointed a full-time Asian Liaison and an active Asian Advisory council consisting of over 50 members. Secretary White's Asian Advisory Council hosts an Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration, where Secretary White honors many community leaders, consular corps, youth and members of the Asian American community. At this event each year, Secretary White recognizes individuals who succeed in their business and community services, as well as youth who excel in their academic achievements. Since 2001, he has also hosted an annual Senior Health Fair.

Members of the Asian American community serve on the Veteran's Advisory Council to the Secretary. The Secretary of State's Literacy Department, has awarded grants to South East Asia Center; Midwest Asian American Center and the Indo American Center. The office offers extended services via its SOS Mobile Unit, which has travelled to centers like the Filipino American Council of Greater Chicago; the Indo American Center; the Korean Chamber of Commerce; the Korean American Seniors of Chicagoland; the Korean Center for Seniors; the Chinese American Service League; the Vietnamese Association of Illinois and Chinese Mutual Aid Association.

The popular Secretary participates in numerous Asian Pacific American events — dinners, parades and festivals; the Aga Khan Foundation's annual Partnerships In Action Golf and Walk, to name a few. Jesse White has attended many, if not most, of the Asian American Coalition of Chicago's Lunar New Year Celebrations, either as Secretary of State or as Recorder of Deeds.